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BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

333 Commerce Street
Suite 2101
Nashville, TN 37201-3300

joelle.phillips@bellsouth.com

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Joelle J. Phillips
Attorney

July 1, 2003

T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM

615 214 6311
Fax 615 214 7406

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Hon. Deborah Taylor Tate, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37238

Re: *Generic Docket Addressing Rural Universal Service*
Docket No. 00-00523

Dear Chairman Tate:

Enclosed are the original and fourteen copies of the update on the Status of Discussions with ICOs, BellSouth and CMRS Providers. Copies of the enclosed are being provided to counsel of record.

Cordially,

Joelle Phillips

JJP:ch

cc: Hon. Ron Jones, Hearing Officer

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Nashville, Tennessee

In Re: *Generic Docket Addressing Rural Universal Service*

Docket No. 00-00523

**UPDATE ON STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS
WITH ICOS, BELL SOUTH AND CMRS PROVIDERS**

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and the Coalition of Rural Independent Companies consisting of the Independent Telephone Companies and Cooperatives (ICOs) provide this update on the status of discussions with the ICOs and CMRS providers.

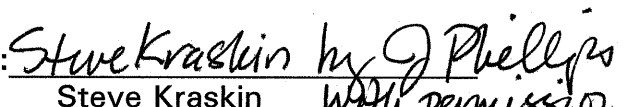
Negotiations continue in accordance with the schedule attached to our previous update. The CMRS providers and the ICOs have exchanged position statements. The CMRS providers have transmitted their initial draft proposed interconnection agreement to the ICOs, and the ICOs are due to provide a redline back to the CMRS providers on July 10, 2003. The next face-to-face meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2003.

The parties will continue to update the Hearing Officer as these discussions progress.

Respectfully submitted,

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. COALITION OF RURAL INDEPENDENT
COMPANIES

By: 
Guy M. Hicks
Joelle J. Phillips
333 Commerce Street, Suite 2101
Nashville, TN 37201-3300
615/214-6301

By: 
Steve Kraskin *with permission*
Kraskin, Lesse & Cossor, LLP
2120 L. Street, NW, Suite 520
Washington, DC 20037
202-296-8890

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 1, 2003, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via the method indicated:

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☐ Facsimile
☐ Overnight

Russ Minton, Esquire
Citizens Communications
3 High Ridge Park
Stamford, CT 06905

☐ Hand
☒ Mail
☐ Facsimile
☐ Overnight

Charles B. Welch, Esquire
Farris, Mathews, et al.
618 Church St., #300
Nashville, TN 37219

☐ Hand
☒ Mail
☐ Facsimile
☐ Overnight

Mr. David Espinoza
Millington Telephone Company
4880 Navy Road
Millington, TN 38053

☐ Hand
☒ Mail
☐ Facsimile
☐ Overnight

Jon E. Hastings, Esquire
Boult, Cummings, et al.
P. O. Box 198062
Nashville, TN 37219-8062

☐ Hand
☒ Mail
☐ Facsimile
☐ Overnight

Henry Walker, Esquire
Boult, Cummings, et al.
P. O. Box 198062
Nashville, TN 37219-8062

☐ Hand
☒ Mail
☐ Facsimile
☐ Overnight

James Wright, Esq.
United Telephone - Southeast
14111 Capitol Blvd.
Wake Forest, NC 27587

☐ Hand
☒ Mail
☐ Facsimile
☐ Overnight

Dan Elrod, Esquire
Miller & Martin
150 4th Avenue, #1200
Nashville, TN 37219

☐ Hand
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☐ Hand
☒ Mail
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☐ Overnight

☐ Hand
☒ Mail
☐ Facsimile
☐ Overnight

James Lamoureux, Esquire
AT&T
1200 Peachtree St., NE
Atlanta, GA 30309

Donald L. Scholes, Esquire
Branstetter, Kilgore, et al.
227 Second Ave., N
Nashville, TN 37219

Timothy Phillips, Esquire
Office of Tennessee Attorney General
P. O. Box 20207
Nashville, TN 37202

James R. Kelley, Esquire
Neal & Harwell, PLC
2000 First Union Tower
150 Fourth Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-2498

Stephen G. Kraskin, Esquire
Kraskin, Lesse & Cosson, LLP
2120 L Street NW, Suite 520
Washington, D.C. 20037

J. Gray Sasser, Esquire
Miller & Martin LLP
150 Fourth Ave., N., #1200
Nashville, TN 37219-2433

Julie Corsig, Esquire
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
One Embarcadero Center, #600
San Francisco, CA 39111-3611

Beth K. Fujimoto, Esquire
AT&T Wireless Services, Inc.
7277 164th Ave., NE
Redmond, WA 90852

